zone areas in view of the increasing exports from Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government will consider converting Karwar Port as free trade zone in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Presently there are seven Export Processing Zones/ Free Trade Zone in the country at Bombay (Maharashtra), Kandla (Gujarat), Cochin (Kerala), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Falta (West Bengal), Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Viskhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Zones, it would not be possible, at present, for the Central Government to consider developing new zones in the country. However, the Central Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones through private sector or State Government participation.

Export target for current year

7364. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Commerce has recently given a clear indication of his preference for setting the current year's export target at around 25 per cent as per the news item in the Times of India dated 19th May, 1994 captioned "Government for targetting 25 per cent export growth" ;

(b) if so, what is the actual export target for 1994-95, as finally decided by the Ministry; and

(c) what is the export target for 1994-95 as projected by the Finance Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Export targets for various sectors for the current year are being considered in consultation with the concerned organisations of trade and industry.

Export targets for various items

7365. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of exports for different items for the year 1994-95; and

(b) what effective measures Government propose to take to achieve the same in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Export targets for 1994-95 have not been fixed.

(b) Broad measures are reflected in the Export and Import Policy 1992—97, as amended and announced on 31-3-94. Specific measures will be devised to achieve the targets being fixed.

Ban on sale of sugar to India by Pakistan

7366. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan Government have recently banned the sale of sugar to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government with respect to new avenuses for the import of sugar from other countries to ensure adequate availability through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by High Commission of India in Pakistan, Government of Pakistan has imposed a gerneral ban on export of sugar to all destinations including India.

(c) Import of sugar into India including those for the PDS are allowed freely without license with nil rates of duty from all permissible desitnations. STC and MMTC have also been directed to import sugar for augmenting PDS supplies.

Proposal for one time registration of tobacoo farmers by tobacoo board.

7367. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Tobacco Board to give one time registration to all tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh who are not registered with the Tobacco Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many tobacco farmers have sought registration with the Board; and

(c) whether the Board has initiated any steps to protect tobacco farmers and their economic interests?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

(1) The Tobacco Board plans the crop size taking into account the domestic and international demand and supply position.

(2) The Tobacco Board conducts auction sales of FCV tobacco on a transparent basis which ensures prompt and fair payment.

(3) Every year, Government declares minimum support prices for FCV tobacco.

Shrimp seed facility operated by MPEDA

7368. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPEDA is operating a Shrimp seed facility near Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is also a fact that the shrimp seed farm near Visakhapatnam is not running efficiently; and

(d) steps proposed to improve the efficiency of MPEDA ship seed farm near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Andhra Pradesh Shrimp seed production supply and Research Centre (TASPARC) is functioning through a society registered under MPEDA. The society became operational in 1989 with an initial capacity of 40 million seeds. Subsequently in December 1991-92, its capacity was doubled to 80 million seeds. As against this, the production sales in 1993-94 were 118 million seeds, which is well over the rate capacity.

Liberalisation of diesel subsidy scheme of MPEDA

7369. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering liberalisation of the